

*Appl. No. 09/889,711  
Amendment dated June 1, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of 04/13/04*

## REMARKS

### Status of the Claims

Claims 1 - 21 are pending in this application. Claims 1 - 4 have been allowed and claims 5-21 stand rejected. After entrance of this amendment, claims 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19 and 20 are amended. No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

### Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 5-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Office Action states that dependent claims 5-9 and 13-21 are confusing and unclear by being a multiple dependent claim that depends on another multiple dependent claim.

To clear up any confusion, applicants have amended dependent claims 5, 8 and 9 to be dependent only on claims 1 or 2 and have amended dependent claims 13, 14 and 18-20 to be dependent only on claims 10 or 11 as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 10 has been amended to correct typographical and grammatical errors. Claims 17, 18 and 19 have been amended to provide for proper antecedent basis. In response to the Examiner's question regarding element (e) of claim 10, the previously filed amendment had a line drawn through (thus deleting) the "s" of polypeptides in line 3 of this element, thereby providing for the correct identification of this claim term, that is making it consistent with the recitation in line 2 of element (e).

It is submitted that the claims now pending in this application, as amended herein, meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection for Claims 5 - 21. As the claims are acknowledged by the Examiner to be free of the prior art, the present application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue.

*Appl. No. 09/889,711  
Amendment dated June 1, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of 04/13/04*

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 - 21 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 1, 2004

Andrew T. Karnakis

Andrew T. Karnakis  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 27,909  
Applied Biosystems  
500 Old Connecticut Path  
Framingham, MA 01701  
Telephone: 508-383-7406